



National Transportation Safety Board

The Chairman's Corner

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Friday, February 8, 2008

NTSB Investigating Cockpit Smoke Incident on B757



The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating an incident that occurred on January 30, 2008, in which an American Airlines B757-200, en route from San Juan, Puerto Rico to Philadelphia, diverted to West Palm Beach, Florida, and made an emergency landing after the cockpit filled with smoke.

Of the 139 passengers and 7 crewmembers, several were transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation. All have since been released. No other injuries were reported.

According to reports from the crew, while at cruise altitude over the Atlantic Ocean, smoke began emanating from the window heating system connected to the first officer's windshield. The crew donned oxygen masks and smoke goggles and diverted to Palm Beach International Airport. During the descent to land, the inner pane of the first officer's windshield shattered. The crew continued the descent and landed without further incident.

The digital flight data recorder (DFDR) was downloaded and sent to the NTSB laboratories in Washington. The affected windshield, which remained in one

piece, and the heating unit were removed from the aircraft and will undergo a detailed analysis.

While the cause of this particular incident is unknown and remains under investigation, the NTSB is aware of five events between 2004 and 2006 in which smoke, and in some cases fire, were reported to have originated from window heating systems in B-757 aircraft.

Based on these incidents, in September 2007 the NTSB issued two Safety Recommendations to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) asking the agency to require the installation of redesigned window heating systems in all Boeing 747, 757, 767, and 777 series aircraft. These Safety Recommendations have yet to be implemented by the FAA.

NTSB Supports Virginia Bill Requiring PFD Use by Children

Member Debbie Hersman and Bill Gossard (Office of Safety Recommendations and Advocacy) met with members of the Virginia Legislature to discuss pending legislation on use of life jackets by children. Chairman Rosenker also spoke to several legislators in support of this legislation. Virginia is one of only three states that currently does not require young children to be protected by life jackets on recreational boats. The bill is now before the House of Delegates for consideration. The Safety Board issued a recommendation in 1993 recommending that States consider ways to reduce recreational boating fatalities, including mandatory use of life jackets for children; this issue is on the Board's list of Most Wanted Transportation Safety Improvements. According to U.S. Coast Guard boating accident statistics, nearly 86 percent of the fatalities who drowned in recreational boating accidents in 2003 could have survived if they had taken the simple step of wearing a lifejacket. Drownings accounted for 481, or nearly 68 percent, of the 703 recreational boating fatalities in 2003. PFDs could have prevented an estimated 416 or 86 percent of those fatalities. This data is consistent with Safety Board research that prompted the 1993 recommendations.

Vice Chairman Sumwalt and Member Higgins Visit BNSF

Vice Chairman Robert Sumwalt and Member Kitty Higgins visited BNSF in Fort Worth, Texas on January 29th. BNSF started implementation of its Electronic Train Management System (ETMS) in December 2006. During the ETMS demonstration, the Board Members and staff viewed operation of ETMS on a large screen in a coach car, but also rode in the locomotive to view ETMS at work first hand. The Vice Chairman, Member Higgins and staff also visited BNSF's Operations Center and BNSF staff briefed the NTSB on safety technology in use on the BNSF system.

Jim Ritter, RPH Chief Technical Advisor, accompanied the Board Members. BNSF executives who briefed the Board Members and NTSB staff were Mark Schulze, VP Safety Training and Operations Support; Dave Galassi, Assistant VP, Network Controls System; Mike Smythers, Assistant VP, Federal Government Affairs; and Kevin Angel, Project Manager, Wabtec Corporation.

Member Higgins Visits FlightSafety International

Member Higgins visited FlightSafety International, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas on January 30th. FlightSafety International is one of the world's largest providers of aviation training services, training over 65,000 pilots annually at 42 learning centers in the U.S., Canada, France and the United Kingdom. Member Higgins visited the company's DFW facility and the co-located helicopter facility. At the Bell Helicopter Facility, Member Higgins, accompanied by a pilot and an instructor, toured a Bell 412 simulator and flew a simulated EMS assignment. During the visit, Member Higgins also met with Raymond Dauphinals, Vice President of CareFlite Helicopter Inc. and his staff, and toured one of their EMS helicopters.



From left to right: Jay Kinard, FSI Director of Training; He Ning, Staff Assistant to Member Higgins; Terry Palmer, FSI Manager Special Programs; George Ferito, FSI Center Manager; NTSB Board Member Kitty Higgins; Barbara Taylor, FSI Assistant Center Manager.

2007 Employee Express W-2s

Every employee, active or inactive, with earnings in 2007 should have received a printed Wage and Tax Statement, Form W-2 at his/her address of record.

For the first time, W-2s for 2007 will also be available for active employees via Employee Express (EEX). Active employees wishing to obtain a duplicate Form W-2 may print one by logging in at www.employeeexpress.gov <<http://www.employeeexpress.gov>>.

•Prior year W-2s are available by calling the Payroll Information Line at (303) 969-7732 or (800) 662-4324 after February 1, 2008.

•Inactive employees may contact the Payroll Information Line at (303) 969-7732 or (800) 662-4324 after February 1, 2008, to request duplicate W-2s.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Lisa Kleiner on 202-314-6462 or at Lisa.Kleiner@ntsb.gov

Welcome New Employee



Carol Bowling joined the National Transportation Safety Board on January 20, 2008 as the new Chief of the Administrative Services Division.

Prior to coming to NTSB, Carol was the Team Leader for Space and Telecommunications at the Federal Highway Administration where she introduced an Office Relocation Class and oversaw numerous space relocations. She began her federal career as a trainee in the Real Property Management Program at the General Services Administration. She was the Acting Buildings Manager of the Commerce Field Office when she left GSA to become the Space Management Analyst of the National Science Foundation. From there she became the Team Leader for both the Capital Equipment Unit and the Facility Management Unit of the Bureau of the Census. She went on to be the Team Leader of the Lease Management Branch at the US Patent and Trademark Office where she also did numerous turn-key interior design projects for USPTO Executive Offices.

Carol served on the Executive Board of the Council of Interior Designers for three years and became a charter member of the International Interior Design Association where she has the distinction of being a Professional Interior Designer.

Carol earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design at Radford University.

